

Southeast Fisheries Science Center  
Miami Laboratory  
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Miami, FL 33149

January 30, 2009

TO: Dr. Joan Browder,  
Protected Resources Branch

FROM: Larry Beerkircher,  
POP Observer Coordinator

SUBJECT: Longline gear Incidental Take summary for quarter 4, 2008.

The Miami Laboratory Pelagic Observer Program (POP) is providing you with a summary report of the incidental take of marine mammals, turtles, and birds that have been recorded by observers aboard longline vessels for October 1 through December 31, 2008. The POP completed an overall coverage rate of 8.9 % of the selected pelagic longline fleet for this quarter (Table 1). In addition, the POP monitored experimental fishing in the Florida East Coast Closed Area (Table 2). During the quarter, observers eight (8) marine mammals (2-pilot whale-alive; 3-Risso's dolphin-alive; 2-unid marine mammals-alive), thirteen (13) sea turtles (6-leatherback-alive; 7-loggerhead-alive), and zero (0) seabirds in regular fishery operations. During experimental fishing, observers documented no incidental take of any species.

Attachments

Table (1) of the Incidental Take summary for fourth quarter of 2008 by geographical area and effort (sets and hook count) observed; Table (2) of the Incidental Take summary for the fourth quarter of 2008 by geographical area and effort (sets and hook count) observed in the experimental fishery.

cc: POP office files;  
John Carlson, Jim Bohnsack (cover letters only).

Table 1: Percent coverage (by hauls), the incidental take of Protected Resource species (turtles, mammals, seabirds), and hook effort summarized by geographical area for October 1 to December 31, 2008 during regular fishing operations.

(A=Alive, D=Dead, U=Unknown. LB=Leatherback, LH=Loggerhead, O=other)

AREA	TOTAL HAULS OBSERVED	REQUIRED 8% COVERAGE	TURTLES			MAMMALS		BIRDS	
			A	D	U	A	D	A	D
			LB/LH/O						
GOM-2	105(10.5%)	80	4/	1/0	0	0	0	0	0
FEC-3	11(8.0%)	11	0/	1/0	0	0	0	0	0
SAB-4	15(5.5%)	22	0/	0/0	0	0	0	0	0
MAB-5	43(6.3%)	55	0/	0/0	0	0	7	0	0
NEC-6	12(32.0%)	3	1/	0/0	0	0	0	0	0
NED-7	9(9.0%)	8	0/	5/	0	0	0	0	0
OFF (TUN)	11(14.7%)	6	1/	0/0	0	0	1	0	0
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TOTAL	206(8.9%)	185	6/	7/0	0	0	8	0	0

Hook effort Summary:

<u>Area</u>	<u>Hook effort</u>
GOM	82,686
FEC	4,792
SAB	7,793
MAB	33,789
NEC	7,955
NED	7,056
OFF (TUN)	15,768
TOTAL	159,839

Table 2: Percent coverage (by hauls), the incidental take of Protected Resource species (turtles, mammals, seabirds), and hook effort summarized by geographical area for July 1 to September 30, 2008 during experimental fishing operations.

(A=Alive, D=Dead, U=Unknown. LB=Leatherback, LH=Loggerhead, O=other)

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AREA	TOTAL HAULS OBSERVED	TURTLES			MAMMALS		BIRDS	
		A	D	U	A	D	A	D
		LB/LH/O						
GOM-2	11	0/ 0/0	0	0	0	0	0	0
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TOTAL	11	0/ 0/0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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Hook effort Summary:

<u>Area</u>	<u>Hook effort</u>
GOM	5,865
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TOTAL	5,865

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